

Message Text

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 2712

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SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO

1. SUMMARY: I HAD WIDE-RANGING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO MORNING MARCH 4. DISCUSSION COVERED ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, VIETNAM PROBLEMS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PRG, AND INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS. I STRESSED CONTINUED U.S. INTENTION MAINTAIN U.S. PRESENCE IN AREA AND SUPPORT FOR INDONESIA. BROAD IDENTITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN U.S. AND INDONESIA ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRMED AND SUHARTO WAS VERY WARM AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND YOURSELF AND FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HIS COUNTRY. END SUMMARY

2. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. SUHARTO LAUNCHED DISCUSSION BY TOUTING SIGNIFICANT IMPROVMENTS ACHIEVED IN FARMING VILLAGES, ALTHOUGH THIS LESS NOTCIEABLE THAN IMPROVEMENTS IN URBAN AREAS. HE STRESSED PARTICULARLY THAT "CERTAIN ELEMENTS" ARE SEEK-ING TO EXPLOIT AND PAINT FALSE PICTURE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL AND URGAN DEVELOPMENT. IN FACT, REMARKABLE PRO-GRESS ACHIEVED IN VILLAGES THROUGH SUCH PROGRAMS AS SUBSIDIES FOR FERTI-
LIZERS AND INSECTICIDES, NEW CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

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3. SUHARTO EXPRESSED GREAT APPRICATION FOR IGGI ASSISTANCE WHICH MADE POSSIBLE INDONESIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND PARTICULARLY FOR U.S. ROLE. HE MADE PLEA FOR CONTINUED AID TO MAXIMIZE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT, DESPITE WORLD MONETARY, FOOD AND ENERGY CRISES.

4. WHILE STRESSING CONTINUED STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN INDONESIA AND OUR INTENTION MAINTAIN STRONG PRESENCE IN AREA, I POINTED TO INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE TO SUPPORT OF AID PROGRAMS. I MENTIONED RECENT HOUSE VOTE ON IDA AND OPPOSITION SENTIMENT AMONG SOME CONGRESSMEN ON GROUNDS THAT AID TO LDCS ESSENTIALLY WOULD BE USED TO PAY FOR HIGHER ENERGY PRICES TO OIL PRODUCERS. NEVERTHELESS WE INTEND TO PRESS HARD FOR CONTINUED AID TO INDONESIA.

5. VIETNAM. I TOOK INITIATIVE TO RAISE VIETNAM ISSUE. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR VERY HELPFUL INDONESIAN ROLE IN ICCS, I EXPRESSED STRONG REGRET REGARDING INDONESIAN VOTE TO SEAT PRG AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. (AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THIS ISSUE BE RAISED DIRECTLY WITH SUHARTO AS WELL AS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK.) I POINTED OUT PRG HAS NO STANDING AS SOVEREIGN NATION AS RESULT PARIS AGREEMENTS AND THAT EFFORTS BY PRG TO ENTER OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES MUST BE STRONGLY RESISTED.

6. I ALSO REVIEWED SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, EMPHASIZING CONTINUED HANOI VIOLATIONS OF ALMOST EVERY ARTICLE PEACE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING SUPPORT OF CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS AND MASSIVE INFILTRATION IN SVN. NEVERTHELESS SVN IN STRONGER POSITION THAN EVER, HANOI NOT STRONGER, AND SITUATION TODAY IN CAMBODIA MORE OPTIMISTIC.

7. SUHARTO DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY ON PRG ISSUE, ALTHOUGH FULLY AGREEING ON NEED TO CONFORM TO PARIS AGREEMENTS AND REAFFIRMING THAT INDONESIA HAD NO INTENTION OF RECOGNIZING PRG DESPITE CONTACTS WITH IT. HE DESCRIBED INDONESIAN OBJECTIVE IN SERVING ON ICCS AS ACHIEVING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GVN AND PRG. ICCS HAD BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS ACHIEVE CEASEFIRE AND RETURN OF PRISONERS, BUT NOTHING ENCOURAGING HAD DEVELOPED ON POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH. IF NO PROGRESS MADE ON ACHIEVING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SUHARTO WARNED THAT INDONESIA MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS FUTURE ROLE IN ICCS. FOR PRESENT, INDONESIA WOULD REDUCE ITS FORCES
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DUE COST OF THESE FORCES BUT WOULD HOLD UNITS IN RESERVE IN INDONESIA AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT IN MORE FORCES IF ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED ON POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. PRESIDENT DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THIS MEANT NEW REDUCTION. I REFERRED TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATION IN SAIGON BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR AGREEING TO REDUCTION FROM 290 TO 200, LARGELY IN CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS COMPLEMENT AND PRESIDENT DID NOT PURSUE SUBJECT. SUHARTO CONCLUDED PRESENTATION ON VIETNAM BY PRAISING STRENGTH OF GVN AND "GREAT" MILITARY HELP OFFERED IT BY U.S. HE URGED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN U.S. AND INDONESIA ON PROSPECTS FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

8. INDIAN OCEAN. I DESCRIBED U.S. INTENTIONS TO MAINTAIN STRONGER

PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION AT DIEGO GARCIA, WHICH I EMPHASIZED WAS NOT RPT NOT "BASE." I WARNED THAT WITH OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL WITHIN MONTHS, SOVIET FLEET WOULD BE CLOSER TO INDIAN OCEAN AND PRESENCE COULD BE INCREASED MORE READILY AND NEEDED TO BE BALANCED.

9. SUHARTO RESPONDED THAT INDONESIA AS "PEACE LOVING COUNTRY" WOULD LIKE TO KEEP INDIAN OCEAN PEACEFUL AND FREE OF SUPER POWER COMPETITION, BUT IT RECOGNIZED THAT IN ACTUALITY BOTH U.S AND USSR MAINTAINED NAVAL PRESENCE IN AREA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDONESIA DID NOT WANT SOVIET PRESENCE ALONE IN OCEAN. BUT INDONESIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD STILL BE BASED UPON ITS WISH FOR PEACE. I REPLIED THAT WE SHARED THIS WISH FOR PEACE BUT HA

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